IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. 1895-14155US02)

In the Application of:

Hutchinson, et al.

Serial No.: 10/534,244

Filed: May 9, 2005

For: **"METHOD OF MAKING METHYL ESTER SURFACTANTS"**

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 14, 2005.

Troy Groetken
Reg. No. 46,442
Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that the following references be considered in the examination of the above-identified patent application:

FOREIGN PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
EP 0335295	March 25, 1989	Hans Scholz, et al.
DE 19611508	March 25, 1996	Rafael Subirana, et al.
DE 19734906	August 12, 1997	Martin Kahmen, et al.
DE 4225136	July 30, 1992	Ansgar Behler
JP 8323200	1995	

PUBLICATION.	DATE	AUTHOR(S)
"Methyl Ester Ethoxylates"	1997	Cox, et al.
"Impact of Molecular Structure on the Performance Of Methyl Ester Ethoxylates"	1998	Cox, et al.
"Micellization and Adsorption of a Series of Fatty Amide Ethoxylates"	2001	Folmer, et al.
"Surfactants based on Fatty Acids and Other Natural Hydrophobes"	2001	Johansson, et al.

Attached please find a copy of each cited foreign reference along with a concise explanation of each non-English foreign reference (*see* Attachment A). Additionally, please find attached a copy of each cited publication. The above-identified reference(s) are also listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A.

This submission is not intended as an admission that the above-cited references constitute prior art. Applicants expressly retain the right to take any actions necessary to remove the above-cited references from the available prior art. Consideration of the above-identified references in the examination of the present patent application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that no fee is due for this submission.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 14, 2005

Troy Groetken
Reg. No. 46,442
Attorney for Applicants

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 W. Madison, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 775-8000

ATTACHMENT A:

CONCISE EXPLANATIONS OF FOREIGN-LANGUAGE, NON-TRANSLATED PATENTS OR PUBLISHED APPLICATIONS

Publication Number: EP0335295
Title: **Process for the preparation of esters of carboxylic acids and alkylene glycol ethers, and their use**

Abstract:

Esters of carboxylic acids, in particular esters of fatty acids, are reacted with ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and/or butylene oxide in the presence of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal compound from the group comprising the hydroxides, oxides and alkoxides as catalyst at a temperature of 100 to 200 DEG C with direct incorporation of the alkylene oxide in the carboxylic acid ester. The carboxylic acid alkylene glycol ether esters are obtained in high yield and in good quality. They are in particular suitable as an active component in detergents.

Publication Number: DE19611508
Title: **Alkoxylated fatty acid alkyl ester preparation with optimum washing power at low temperature**

Abstract:

The invention concerns a process for the alkoxylation of fatty acid alkyl esters, mixtures of (a) alkali and/or alkaline earth hydroxides and/or alkali alcoholates and (b) alkylene glycols being used as catalysts. The catalysts are soluble in the reaction mixture and the products are distinguished by a particularly low cloud point.

Publication Number: DE19734906
Title: **Alkoxylation of fatty acid amide(s) and ester(s) with epoxy compounds**

Abstract:

Preparation of alkoxylation products of formula (R-COO-CHR<1>-CHR<6>z)mY (III) comprises reaction of fatty acid compounds of formula (R-CO)mY (IV) with alkyleneoxides of formula (V), where R = a 3-29C aliphatic group containing 1-3 C=C double bonds and which may be interrupted by 1-3 non-adjacent O atoms; R<1>, R<6> = H, methyl or ethyl; m = 1-3; when m = 1, Y = OR<2> or NR<3>R<4>; when m = 2, Y = OR<5>O; when m = 3, Y = O-CH2-CH(-O)-CH2-O (sic); R<2>-R<4> = 1-18C alkyl; R<5> = 1-18C alkyl or 2-18C alkylene; z has an average value of 1-100. The reaction takes place in the presence of a catalyst made from polycation-based mixed hydroxides of

formula M(II)1-xM(III)x(OH)2Ax/n.mL (I) or LiAl2(OH)6Al/n.mL (II), where M(II) = one or more divalent metals; M(III) = one or more trivalent metals; A = one or more inorganic anions; L = an organic solvent or water; n = the valency of A, or the average valency, if different anions are used; x = 0.1-0.5; and m = 0-10. The mixed hydroxides are modified by additives selected from the following: (a) aromatic or heteroaromatic mono- or polycarboxylic acids or their salts; (b) aliphatic mono- or polycarboxylic acids or their salts with an isocyclic or heterocyclic ring in the side chain; (c) semi esters of dicarboxylic acids or their salts; (d) carboxylic acid anhydrides; (e) aliphatic or aromatic sulphonic acids or their salts; (f) 8-18C alkylsulphates; (g) long chain paraffins; (h) polyetherols or polyetherpolyols; (i) alcohols or phenols; or (k) aliphatic 4-44C dicarboxylic acids or aliphatic 7-34C monocarboxylic acids. The additives may be moulded in solid form with the catalyst, optionally using binders. Also claimed are the products (III).

Publication Number: **JP8323200**
Title: **Alkoxylation catalyst, its production and production of ester alkoxylate using the catalyst**

Abstract:

PURPOSE: To produce an ester alkoxylate almost free from unreacted starting materials and a by-product at a high rate in a high yield by using an alkoxylation catalyst contg. magnesium oxide and oxide of an atom belonging to the group IV, VI, etc., in a specified ratio. CONSTITUTION: This alkoxylation catalyst contains a magnesium compd. and oxide of a metallic atom such as antimony or zinc so that the atomic ratio between the metallic atom and magnesium is regulated to (0.002-0.4):1. When this catalyst is used, a 2-4C alkylene oxide is added to a compd. having COOR and the objective compd. having COO(AO)m R is rapidly produced with high selectivity in a high yield. In the formulae, R is a residue obtd. by removing one hydroxyl group from alcohol, etc., A is alkylene and (m) is the average mol number of added alkylene oxide.

Publication Number: **DE4225136**
Title: **Narrow range alkoxylate nonionic surfactant prodn. - by alkoxylation of cpds. contg. active hydrogen or ester using metal alcoholate activated with organic carboxylic acid as homogeneous catalyst**

Abstract:

Prodn of nonionic surfactants (I) comprises alkoxylating cpds (IIA) with active H atoms or esters (IIB) in the presence of gp IIA and/or IIIB alcoholate(s) (III) and organic, opt substd carboxylic acids (IV) as activators. Pref (IIA) are fatty alcohols of the formula R1OH (IIA-1); and (IIB) are lower alkyl esters of the formula R2CO-OR3 (IIB-1) or fatty

acid glycerides of the formula R4-CO-O-CH2-CH(O-CO-R5)-CH2O-CO-R6 (IIB-2). R1= a 6-22C aliphatic hydrocarbyl gp with 0, 1, 2 or 3 double bonds; R2CO, R4CO, R5CO and R6CO= 6-22C aliphatic acyl gps with 0, 1, 2 or 3 double bonds; R3= 1-4C alkyl. Ethylene oxide (EO) is used for alkoxylation. (III) are Mg and/or Al alcoholates; and (IV) mono-, di- and polycarboxylic acids, aminocarboxylic acids, oligopeptides, hydroxycarboxylic acids and their partial esters. USE/ADVANTAGE - (I) are useful in washing, dish washing and cleaning agents and hair and body care prods. Narrow range alkoxylates contg little fatty alcohol and little polyethylene glycol are obtd which normally are obtd only with heterogeneous catalyst systems. The catalysts are obtd simply by mixing (III) and (IV) without the additional cost of synthesis.

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark [redacted] U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Re[redacted] Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of inform[redacted] unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/534,244
Filing Date	May 9, 2005
First Named Inventor	John Christopher Hutchinson
Art Unit	Not Yet Known
Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number	14155US02

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number - Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3] - Number[4] - Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
	1	EP0335295	03.25.89	Dr. Hans Scholz et al.	5 pages + US Abstract	
	2	DE19611508	03.25.96	Dr. Rafael Subirana et al.	4 pages + US Abstract	
	3	DE19734906	08.12.97	Martin Kahmen et al.	10 pages + US Abstract	
	4	DE4225136	07.30.92	Dr. Ansgar Behler	8 pages + US Abstract	
	5	JP8323200	1995		10 pages + US Abstract	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. [1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/534,244
Filing Date	May 9, 2005
First Named Inventor	John Christopher Hutchinson
Art Unit	Not Yet Known
Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number	14155US02

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]
	6	COX et al. - Methyl Ester Ethoxylates, Journal of the American Oil Chemists Society 1997, Vol. 74, No. 7, pages 847-859, see page 848, SCHEME 1 and page 847, column 2, top, FIG.1.	
	7	COX et al. - Impact of Molecular Structure on the Performance of Methyl Ester Ethoxylates (Journal of Surfactants and Detergents, Vol 1, No. 1 (January 1998)).	
	8	FOLMER et al. - Micellization and Adsorption of a Series of Fatty Amide Ethoxylates (2001 Journal of Colloid and Interface Science 242, 404 410).	
	9	JOHANSSON et al. - Surfactants based on fatty acids and other natural hydrophobes (Current Opinion in Colloid & Interface Science 6 - Pages 178-188, 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd.).	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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